

about the same time Bari, Taranto,
 Salerno, one
 after another, were threatened or
 taken, South
 Italy for a time was in considerable
 danger of be-
 coming Semitic, and even if the danger
 seemed to
 pass, Islam had a unique power of
 revival, To the
 Aglabites succeeded the Fatimite
 caliphs of Egypt,
 whose ships and armies in 965 drove
 the Greeks
 out of Rametta, their last stronghold
 in Sicily,
 Their lieutenant Abul-Kasem seemed at
 first
 likely to add Apulia and Calabria to
 his Sicilian
 emirate; at Crotone in Calabria he
 overwhelmed
 the German Emperor, Otto II., with the
 whole of
 his forces, but died in the fight with all
 his ambi-
 tions (982), The next century saw the
 Matamoras
 without an inch of ground on the
 mainland, and
 even in Sicily the strong hand was
 lacking. The
 emirs of the island, like the newly-
 sprung Zirid
 dynasty of Tunis on the coast of Africa,
 were
 the overlords of the Fatimite in the
 Mothel of
 Sicily devoted themselves to peaceful
 trade with
 the Italian sea-towns on the one hand
 and Africa
 and Egypt on the other; their island
 was
 a paradise of wealth and culture, and
 its capital,
 Palermo, a second Cordova,
 The claim of the Western or Holy

Empire to Lower. Italy had & more
In the theory of the *Imperium* Italy wits
a* itr>
cessary a part of the Bmpemr's
dominion ttit
Germany, Yet even the dominion of
Oturlfi
the Great in Italy had actually only
rcachttl to
a line drawn eastward from Ga^ta If*
thi» »mlh»